

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A crystalline, hydrated form of ~~the~~ a sodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid, wherein:

the form is a pentahydrate of a monosodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid;

~~the form contains from 6.4 up to 22 weight % of sodium and 15 up to 23 weight % of crystalline water if the sodium content is lower than 7.5 weight %, based on the whole molecule, or 4.5 up to 18 weight % of crystalline water if the sodium content is equal to or higher than 13 weight %, based on the anhydrous substance~~
from 20 to 23 weight % of water built in the crystal lattice based on a total weight of the molecule; and

the form contains from 5.5 to 7.5 weight % of sodium based on the total weight of the molecule.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The crystalline form according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ the form comprises:

22.8 weight % of water built in ~~the~~ its crystal lattice based on the total weight of the molecule; and

from 6.4 up to 6.7 weight % of sodium; based on the whole total weight of the molecule.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The crystalline form according to ~~claims 2 or 3~~claim 1 or claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ form shows a powder X-ray diffraction pattern with interplanar distances d that are approximately 16.3; 13.0; 9.1 and 4.9 Å.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The crystalline form according to ~~claims 2 or 3~~claim 1 or claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ form shows an infrared spectrum having bands at 1169; 1060; 1046 and 891 cm^{-1} .

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The crystalline form according to ~~claims 2 or 3~~claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a thermogravimetric analysis of ~~said the~~ form shows a plateau at temperature of about 173 °C.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The crystalline form according to ~~claims 2 or 3~~claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a ^{31}P CP-MAS NMR spectrum of ~~said the~~ form shows signals 13.7 and 20.0 ppm.

Claims 8-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method of ~~manufacture of~~manufacturing the crystalline form according to claim 1, comprising incorporating an aqueous solution of the sodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid heated to a temperature of from 50 up to 80 °C into an organic solvent.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of simple alcohols from the C₁ to C₅ series.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method of ~~manufacture of~~ manufacturing the crystalline form according to claim 1, comprising:

introducing seeding crystals of ~~the~~ a respective hydrate of the sodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonate into ~~the~~ a solution of the sodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid; and
slowly cooling the solution.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein crystallization is performed from a solution of the sodium salt in a mixture of water and a water-miscible organic substance.

Claim 16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the organic solvent is 2-propanol.